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IR Nr C-62

4 Feb 60/TC & C Dr

SUBJECT: Communist China's Restrictions on Document Exports to Japan

Conclusion:

Communist China has imposed a drastic limitation on exports of publications to Japan through commercial channels in an obvious attempt to enhance the scarcity value of Communist Chinese publications in Japan. On the other hand, Communist China permits the sending of publications to pro-Communist organizations in Japan through special exchange methods. By these measures, Communist China's objective is considered to be to circulate pro-Communist Chinese information through these pro-Communist organizations and, at the same time, foster such organizations.

Statement of the facts:

1. Although the Chinese had always imposed certain limitations on exports of publications a large variety of Communist Chinese publications had been sold overseas. Suddenly, in Dec 59, Communist China imposed restrictions on publication exports to Hong Kong, and in Jan 60 took steps to drastically limit publication sales to Japan.

2. For the time being, documents sent direct from Pei-ching to Japan will be limited to such propaganda publications as the Jen-min Jih-pao, Hung-chi, Jen-min Chung-kuo (People's China), and Chung-kuo Hsin-pao (China Pictorial). Thirty-three other kinds of periodicals (see Addendum I) will be exported to Japan via Hong Kong.

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3. With all the foregoing limitations, however, Communist China is likely to send, on the pretext of document exchange or otherwise, various kinds of publications other than those listed above to pro-Communist organizations in Japan.

Recipients of this favor will presumably include a number of organizations such as the China Research Institute and Sino-Japanese Friendship Society in Tokyo, to say nothing of the Japan Communist Party. The names and nature of Communist Chinese publications to be sent to respective organizations are yet to be identified.

Also, there are indications that documents will be exchanged between specific organizations in Japan and appropriate organizations in Communist China. The term "specific organizations in Japan" used here refers to national libraries and various private as well as public groups and organizations in Japan. The initiative in document exchange will be taken either by Communist China or by Japanese organizations followed by Communist Chinese consent. Document exchange reported by the Shinane Shimbun (See Addendum II) is an example of the initial step being taken by Communist China with subsequent Japanese agreement.

Discussion of the facts:

1. Reasons for Communist China's restriction on document exports to Japan.

Four different views are generally taken in Japan. The first view regards the restriction as a means of Communist China's lateral aid

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to pro-Communist organizations. In other words, if hard to obtain Communist Chinese data are utilized only by pro-Communist organizations, then publications translated and digested through these organizations will have higher authority. Thus, only such information as is favorable to Communist China will be circulated. At the same time, the number of readers of publications issued by these organizations will be increased.

The second view regards the restriction as a means of limiting the outlet of publication exports to Hong Kong. In other words, Communist China aims to entrust publication exports to Asian countries to one book agent in Hong Kong, adjust prices to fit the Hong Kong market, and sell for higher prices than before, thus increasing foreign exchange holdings. According to this view, Communist China should release more publications than before. As it is, the restriction is only slightly milder for Hong Kong than for Japan, and no increase in foreign exchange earnings has yet been realized.

The third view regards the restriction as indicating a more rigid censorship on publications exported because of the increased emphasis placed on counterintelligence in relation to that placed on propaganda. This view is, in a way, acceptable. In the case of certain periodicals, the reason for restriction is considered to be counterintelligence. Generally speaking, however, Communist China, which has hitherto maintained a rigid distinction between exportable and unexportable publications, could, if necessary, force a change in contents of articles or ban the export of a

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limited number of periodicals. There is no reason why Communist China should have to ban the export of most publications.

The fourth view regards the restriction as a measure for economizing on paper due to the paper shortage in Communist China. However, the volume of Communist Chinese publications sold to Japan would be only a drop in the ocean as compared with those distributed inside of Communist China.

2. The drastic limitation on document exports to Japan combined with special distribution of documents to pro-Communist organizations may be taken as a deftly contrived political maneuver toward Japan. By this measure Communist China can expect the following effects:

a. The scarcity value of Communist Chinese publications will be enhanced, stimulating the public appetite for these publications and thereby actually increasing their influence.

b. Since information on Communist China will be translated or digested by pro-Communist organizations or groups in Japan prior to circulation, a larger volume of pro-Communist documents will come to be read. As a secondary effect, the raison d'être of pro-Communist organizations will be furthered, that is to create a favorable position to foster, consolidate, and bring in new affiliates for pro-Communist organizations and groups.

3. Document exchange between Communist China and specific organizations and groups in Japan.

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Communist China at present has no trouble obtaining Japanese publications. Communist China has been importing a large quantity of documents published in Japan. In spite of this favorable situation Communist China has not only proposed document exchange with specific organizations in Japan, but also seems to be ready to accept similar Japanese proposals. What does this imply? It is easily surmised in the first place that this attitude implies the political aim of promoting a pro-Communist spirit in various private as well as public organizations in Japan. Also, this may be a secret attempt to obtain not-for-sale documents through these organizations, thereby to enrich the quality of information on Japan. Investigation into the nature and location of Japanese organizations which have already received, or will probably receive in the future, Communist Chinese proposal for document exchange may produce some interesting results.

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ADDENDUM I

List of Communist Chinese Periodicals Available through Hong Kong to Japan.

1. Chung-kuo Yu-wen (Chinese Language)
2. Ti-li Chi-shih (Geographical Knowledge)
3. Chung-kuo K'o-hsueh (China Science)
4. Ching-chi Yen-ch'un (Economic Study)
5. Chi-pen (Drama Book)
6. Kuo-chi Wen-ti I-t'sung (Translation Report of International Problems)
7. Yu-wen Hsueh-hsi (Language Study)
8. K'ao-ku Hsueh-pao (Archaeological Report)
9. Yu-wen Chih-shih (Language Knowledge)
10. K'ao-ku (Archaeology)
11. Tso-pin (Creation) ---possibly novels or poetry
12. Hsin Chien-she (New Construction)
13. Hsin Kuan-cha (New Observation)
14. Shih-kan (Poetry)
15. K'o-hsueh Ta-chung (Popular Science)
16. Shao-nien Wen-i (Children's Literature)
17. Shou-huo (Harvest)
18. Erh-tung Shih-tai (Childhood)
19. Shih-chieh Chih-shih (The World Knowledge)

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20. Wen-hsueh P'ing-lun (Criticism of Literature)
21. Wen-hsueh Chih-shih (Literature Knowledge)
22. P'ing-ho Hai She-hui Chu-i Ti Wen-ti (Problems on Peace and Socialism)
23. Min-tsu T'uan-chieh (Racial Unity)
24. Min-chien Wen-hsueh (Folk Literature)
25. Wu-hsien-tien (Radio)
26. Shih-chieh Wen-hsueh (The World Literature)
27. Lu-hsing-chia (Traveler)
28. Chih-shih Chiu-shih Li-liang (Knowledge is Strength)
29. Tu-shu (Reading)
30. Wen-vu (Civilization)
31. K'o-hsueh Hua-pao (Scientific Pictorial)
32. Hsueh K'o-hsueh (Study of Science)
33. Shih-chieh Kung-hui Yun-tung (Labor Union Movement in the World)

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ADDENDUM II

Communist China's Proposal for Document Exchange

A letter was received on 20 Jul by the Shimane Fisheries Laboratory in Hamada City from the library of the China National Academy in Pei-ching. The letter read as follows:

"We should like to initiate cultural exchange to promote friendship between Japan and China. In this connection, it is desired that a periodical exchange of academic publications be instituted between your laboratory and our library. For this purpose, we are sending the following publications. Your consent is earnestly desired.

Oceans and Lakes (quarterly)

Study on Marine Products (irregular)"

After a conference, the fisheries laboratory on 22 Jul sent an affirmative reply enclosing a copy of the SUISHI GEPPU (Fisheries Laboratory Monthly Report) as the exchange document. Mr. SHINDO, chief of the fisheries laboratory, said as follows:

"This is the first time that we have ever received such a request from Communist China. It was quite unexpected. As for us, we should like to continue this cultural exchange forever for the sake of friendship between Japan and China."

(Source: Shimane Shinbun, 23 Jul 59, Matsue, Japan)

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Mr. Richard W. Beyer.

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